AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously presented) A method for rule-based network management, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

    defining and storing a set of rules in one or more Rule-Based Markup Language

        ("RBML") documents, wherein the one or more RBML documents include one or

        more tags defining one or more rule elements, and wherein the set of rules

        includes:

        a symptom-event rule that identifies as a symptom a particular event occurring

            within a first network in a plurality of networks; and

        a problem-diagnosis rule that defines a problem within the network as a

            correlation between one or more symptoms;

    collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms, wherein

        collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes monitoring the network

        for one or more network events identified in the symptom-event rule; and

    detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes applying

        the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

    receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second network,

        separate from the first network; and

    distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents storing

        the particular rule.

2.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, the method further comprising reviewing the set of rules to identify and resolve a conflict between two or more rules in the set.

3.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, the method further comprising storing the one or more RBML documents in a rule repository, wherein the rule repository includes one or more directories containing RBML documents.

4.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule includes:

a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

a correlation tag identifying the correlation between one or more symptoms, wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators associated with the one or more symptoms.

5.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the step of detecting a problem within the network further comprises the steps of:

comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated with a particular symptom to determine whether the particular symptom exists in the symptom-related data;

repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule; and

only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

6.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a RBML document storing the symptom-event rule includes:

an event tag identifying the particular event occurring on the network; and

a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the particular event.

7.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the RBML document storing the symptom-event rule further includes:

a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-related data associated with the particular network device.

8.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the set of rules further includes a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective

actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

the method further comprises the step of recommending to a user one or more corrective

actions defined in a RBML document storing the problem-correction rule.

9.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 8, the method further comprising the step of

applying to a network device, without user intervention, one or more corrective actions

defined in the problem-correction rule.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Previously presented A method for defining a Rule-Based Markup Language ("RBML")

to describe a set of rules for managing a first network among a plurality of networks, the method

comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

creating one or more RBML documents for storing the set of rules, wherein the one or

more RBML documents include one or more tags defining one or more rule

elements, and wherein:

a RBML document storing a symptom-event rule from the set of rules includes:

an event tag identifying a particular event occurring on the network; and

a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the

particular event; and

a RBML document storing a problem-diagnosis rule from the set of rules

includes:

a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

a correlation tag identifying a correlation between one or more symptoms,

wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more

symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators

associated with the one or more symptoms; and

generating, from information stored in one or more tags of the one or more RBML

documents, one or more sequences of instructions, which instructions, when

executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out
the steps of:

collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,
 wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes
 monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the
 symptom-event rule; and

detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes
 applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second
 network, separate from the first network; and

distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents
 storing the particular rule.

12. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the step of detecting a problem
within the network further comprises the steps of:

comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated
 with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a particular symptom exists
 in the symptom-related data;

repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in
 the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;
 and

only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem
 identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

13. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the RBML document storing the
symptom-event rule further includes:

a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection
 command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-
 related data associated with the particular network device.

14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein:

the step of creating one or more RBML documents further includes creating a RBML

document for storing a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective

actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

the step of generating instructions includes generating one or more sequences of

instructions, which instructions, when executed by the one or more processors,

cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of recommending to a user

the one or more corrective actions defined in the RBML document storing the

problem-correction rule.

15.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for rule-based network management, comprising:

a rule editor for creating and storing, in one or more Rule-Based Markup Language

("RBML") documents containing one or more tags, a set of rules employed in

managing a first network among a plurality of networks, wherein the set of rules

includes:

a symptom-event rule that identifies as a symptom a particular event occurring

within the network; and

a problem-diagnosis rule that defines a problem within the network as a

correlation between one or more symptoms;

one or more processors;

a diagnosis engine including one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when

executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry

out the steps of:

collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,

wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes

monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the

symptom-event rule; and

detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes

applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

a rule broker configured to receive a request from a user to apply a particular rule in

managing a second network, separate from the first network, and to distribute to a

device on the second network the one or more RBML documents storing the

particular ~~rule.~~ rule;

        receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second

               network, separate from the first network; and

        distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents

               storing the particular rule.

16.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the rule editor is capable of providing to a user means for reviewing the set of rules to identify and resolve a conflict between two or more rules in the set.

17.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein:

the problem-diagnosis rule defining the correlation between one or more symptoms

        includes one or more pre-defined indicators associated with the one or more

        symptoms; and

the diagnosis engine instructions for carrying out the step of detecting a problem within

        the network further include instructions for carrying out the steps of:

        comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators

               associated with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a

               particular symptom exists in the symptom-related data;

        repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms

               identified in the problem-diagnosis rule; and

        only if all correlated symptoms identified in the problem-diagnosis rule exist,

               determining that the problem defined in the problem-diagnosis rule is

               detected.

18.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the symptom-event rule further includes:

information identifying a particular network device; and

a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection command, when executed on the

        particular network device, returns symptom-related data associated with the

        particular network device.

19.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein:

the set of rules further includes a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective
actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

the diagnosis engine further includes instructions which, when executed by the one or
more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of
recommending to a user one or more corrective actions defined in the problem-
correction rule.

20.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 19, wherein the diagnosis engine further
includes instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more
processors to carry out the step of applying to a network device, without user intervention, one or
more corrective actions defined in the problem-correction rule.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more
sequences of instructions for rule-based network management, which instructions, when
executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

defining and storing a set of rules in one or more Rule-Based Markup Language
("RBML") documents, wherein the one or more RBML documents include one or
more tags defining one or more rule elements, and wherein the set of rules
includes:

a symptom-event rule that identifies as a symptom a particular event occurring
within a first network among a plurality of networks; and

a problem-diagnosis rule that defines a problem within the network as a
correlation between one or more symptoms;

collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms, wherein
collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes monitoring the network
for one or more network events identified in the symptom-event rule; and

detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes applying
the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second network, separate from the first network;

distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents storing the particular rule.

23. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of reviewing the set of rules to identify and resolve a conflict between two or more rules in the set.

24. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of storing the one or more RBML documents in a rule repository, wherein the rule repository includes one or more directories containing RBML documents.

25. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein a RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule includes:

a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

a correlation tag identifying the correlation between one or more symptoms, wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators associated with the one or more symptoms.

26. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated with a particular symptom to determine whether the particular symptom exists in the symptom-related data;

repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in
the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;
and

only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem
identified in the problem-definition tag is detected

27.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22,
wherein a RBML document storing the symptom-event rule includes:
an event tag identifying the particular event occurring on the network; and
a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the particular event.

28.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 27,
wherein the RBML document storing the symptom-event rule further includes:
a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and
a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection
command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-
related data associated with the particular network device.

29.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22,
wherein:
the set of rules further includes a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective
actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and
the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed by
the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step
of recommending to a user one or more corrective actions defined in a RBML
document storing the problem-correction rule.

30.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 29,
further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors,
cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of applying to a network device,
without user intervention, one or more corrective actions defined in the problem-
correction rule.

31.   (Canceled)

32.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more

sequences of instructions for defining a Rule-Based Markup Language ("RBML") to

describe a set of rules for managing a first network among a plurality of networks, which

instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors

to carry out the steps of:

creating one or more RBML documents for storing the set of rules, wherein the one or

more RBML documents include one or more tags defining one or more rule

elements, and wherein:

a RBML document storing a symptom-event rule from the set of rules includes:

an event tag identifying a particular event occurring on the network; and

a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the

particular event; and

a RBML document storing a problem-diagnosis rule from the set of rules

includes:

a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

a correlation tag identifying a correlation between one or more symptoms,

wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more

symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators

associated with the one or more symptoms; and

generating, from information stored in one or more tags of the one or more RBML

documents, one or more sequences of instructions, which instructions, when

executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out

the steps of:

collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,

wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes

monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the

symptom-event rule; and

detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes

applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second
network, separate from the first network; and

distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents
storing the particular rule.

33.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,
wherein the instructions for detecting a problem within the network further comprise
instructions for carrying out the steps of:

comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated
with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a particular symptom exists
in the symptom-related data;

repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in
the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;
and

only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem
identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

34.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,
wherein the RBML document storing the symptom-event rule further includes:

a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection
command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-
related data associated with the particular network device.

35.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,
wherein:

the instructions for creating one or more RBML documents further comprise instructions
for carrying out the step of creating a RBML document for storing a problem-
correction rule defining one or more corrective actions capable of correcting the
problem within the network; and

the instructions for generating one or more sequences of instructions, by using information stored in one or more tags of one or more RBML documents, further comprise instructions for carrying out the step of recommending to a user the one or more corrective actions defined in the RBML document storing the problem-correction rule.